

Leaner lambs

For 92% of consumers questioned as part of a survey, excess fat is a factor that puts them off buying lamb chops. While great progress in genetics has been made in recent years, with judicious cross-breeding helping to produce leaner meat, there is still very limited understanding of the possibility of achieving this same objective through feeding.

A project directed by the *Centre de recherche et de développement en agriculture* evaluated optimal rations for growing heavy lambs. The experiment showed that by giving excellent hay and reducing concentrates at the end of the growing period, carcasses that are both leaner and more uniform can be obtained, thus encouraging the marketing of heavy lambs.



According to Agronomist Marie Vachon, who led the research, lamb producers have already shown an interest in this approach and have begun to apply its principles.

For more information: Richard Wieland (418) 480-3300, local 233

Animal feeding under the microscope of researchers

Over the past few years, the feeding of farm animals has been the subject of several experiments supported by the CDAQ, whether to improve the quality of carcasses, encourage the self-sufficiency of farms, or even to reduce the amount of pollutants.

Quebec whole grains for chickens

Is it profitable to incorporate whole grains produced in Quebec in the feed of broiler chickens? Absolutely, as the results of a study conducted for the *Fédération des producteurs de volailles du Québec* have shown.

Broiler chickens can be fed up to 20% barley and 35% wheat, while giving results at least as good as those obtained with a feed formulated almost solely on corn and soya. Depending on the quantity incorporated, savings of between \$1 and \$2 a tonne for barley can be achieved by using grain from Quebec rather than from the West. In the case of wheat, the difference can be up to \$4 a tonne. If, with a view to self-sufficiency, the grains are grown on the farm, savings are even higher.

For more information: Pierre Fréchette (450) 679-0530

Feed efficiency for hogs

How to improve the selection of feed efficiency criteria in order to enable hog farmers to produce, at least cost, market hogs that meet the needs of consumers, while reducing the amount of pollutants? That is the question behind the project put forward by the *Fédération des producteurs de porcs du Québec*. Among other results, this project has led to a databank being made available to Quebec researchers in order to develop advanced molecular genetic tools.

For more information: Janie Lévesque (418) 650-2440

We invite you to contact us for any question or comments on this column or the activities of the CDAQ

555 Roland-Therrien Blvd., Longueuil, Quebec, J4H 3Y9 - Telephone: (450) 679-0530 - Fax: (450) 463-5214

To refer to the list of financially supported projects, please visit the Council's website at: www.cdaq.qc.ca
Since its inception in 1996, the CDAQ administers the producers' share of provincial funds allocated by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) under the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund (CARD).